

money to win at sea. A young general named HAMILCAR BARCA, a bitter enemy of Rome, was sent to Sicily and almost exhausted the Romans with raids. It was now clear that only a desperate effort would win the war, and the Romans rose to the occasion. In response to an appeal to the people for patriotic gifts of personal jewelry and trinkets, money was raised to build a new fleet of 200 great ships. This fleet met the Punic forces off the SICILIAN coast and utterly defeated them. HAMILCAR was marooned on the island

250 BC - 241 BC

PUNIC WAR

The Romans sent an expedition thither to attack Carthage directly (250 BC). The Consul REGULUS won a victory, and it seemed that he would undoubtedly take the city the next spring, when a SPARTAN hiring general arrived who trained the PUNIC forces in the Greek style. The Romans were now badly beaten and REGULUS was taken prisoner. According to later Roman legends, he was sent back to Rome with peace proposals, but, refusing to

sage that terms be made to save him from captivity, he returned to Carthage to die a prisoner. Later the Romans never tired of glorifying his high standards of honor and his personal bravery.

The Romans now suffered one piece of bad luck after another. They could beat the Punic ships in battle, but the elements were too much for them. Perhaps they lacked good pilots; more likely they suffered from lack of nautical experience. Be this as it may, two great war fleets and many transports were wrecked by storms and a third fleet was beaten by the enemy. Most of the wrecked ships were sunk with all on board, the losses totaling as many as 210,000 men. No ancient state had ever had such casualty lists. The Roman treasury, too, had suffered from the vast expense of these fleets. It was about this time that REGULUS was sent to secure peace, but the Romans held on doggedly. Carthage could not use her control of the sea fully, because the landlords had won temporary political control and would not spend enough

to raise more wheat, the Romans made it easier to pay a tithe of grain than the rent of the land used for other crops. This wheat was then shipped to Rome to be sold at a low price, thus pleasing the common people of the city by providing them with cheaper food. The burden of the Sicilian was not heavy and, on the whole, they gained much from the peace which Rome enforced.

It was soon apparent that Roman public affairs were needed to govern the Sicilians - a quaestor to watch the collection of the Roman revenues, and

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and the Punic subjects were about to revolt. Carthage had to make peace (241 B.C.)

Under the Roman peace terms she had to pay a war indemnity of 3,200 talents (about 3.5 π in gold of 1932) (about 45.0 π of gold in 1985) in ten years, to give up all Sicily, and to agree not to send warships to Italian waters. The victory was important to Rome in other ways, for the Roman federation had stood the test of a long war and her citizen soldiers had shown

vast superiority over the hired troops of Carthage. Furthermore, Roman sea power was supreme in the western Mediterranean.

The capture of Sicily marks a decided change in Roman policies - a change for the worse in their treatment of conquered people. Up to now, as we have seen, Rome had been very liberal in dealing with them, collecting no tribute and allowing self government. HIERON, tyrant of Syracuse, who had become an ally of Rome, continued in that status; and several other Sicilian cities who had helped her in the war were left to manage their own affairs and not made to pay tribute. The rest of the Sicilians, however, were treated far less liberally. They had long been accustomed to pay a land rent to the ruler which was far heavier than any ordinary tax. It was only natural that the Romans should continue the system in vogue in order to recoup themselves for their extremely heavy war expenses. Vineyards and olive orchards were taking the place of wheat fields on the exhausted soil in many parts of Italy. Consequently, in order to encourage the Sicilians

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a praetor to serve as judge and to command the legion assigned to defend the land. the praetor, who was a long way from home, soon saw and took advantage of many chances to enrich himself by exercising his despotic power. Thus began the vicious custom of the governor of a province using his year of office to plunder the provincials, a custom which became a curse when the Roman dominions were more widely extended. Another result of the acquisition of Sicily was

to bring the Romans into closer contact with the Greeks and their civilization. In Sicily the Roman officers and soldiers acquired habits of luxurious living quite different from the old Roman simplicity. They saw plays that would have shocked their grandfathers. They learned that money would buy not only goods but services of all kinds, crooked as well as honest. Whereas they were already keen enough about getting money, now they became even more avaricious. Their old-fashioned Puritan ideals were undermined by contact with the shifty western Greeks. Of course, the Greek influence was not all bad. Greek plays and poems were translated into Latin and the treasures of Greek literature were thus passed on to the Romans. Not many years after this, NAÆVIUS wrote the first piece of original Latin literature. However, it must not be thought that the Romans were quickly Hellenized. The process was started after the First PUNIC War, but it took a long time to break down the old Roman simplicity of life.

256 BC

Romans invade Africa. Carthage
had pressed.

256-255 BC

1912 Dates J-BK

ZAMA

In the 1st PUNIC WAR between Rome & Carthage, Regulus invaded Africa with great success until he was finally defeated and taken prisoner at Zama, a town near Carthage

256 BC

DURANT

off ECNOMUS, on the southern coast of Sicily, the hostile fleets, carrying 300,000 men, fought the greatest sea battle of antiquity. The Romans under REGULUS won decisively and sailed on unhindered to Africa. Landing there without careful reconnaissance, they soon met a superior Carthaginian force, which almost annihilated

them, and took their reckless counsel prisoner.
Shortly afterward the Roman fleet was dashed
by a storm against a rocky coast, 284 vessels
were wrecked and some 80,000 men were
drowned. It was the worst naval calamity
in the memory of men. The Romans showed
their quality of building 200 new quinqueremes
in three months and training 80,000
men to man them.

256 BC

1912 Dates J-BK

Moral victory for Romans
at ECNOMUS

256 BC

CONSULS:

L. Manlius Vulso Longus

M. Atilius Regulus - suff. (II)

Romans win naval battle off
ECNOMUS and invade Africa;
Regulus defeats Punic Army
at ADYS; peace negotiations fail

256 BC

1912 Dates J-BK

Antioch was destroyed by
an earthquake.

256BC

1912 Dates J-BK

~~ECNOMUS~~ ECNOMUS

During the 1st Punic War a naval battle was fought near Ecnomus, a hill in Sicily, between the Roman fleet commanded by M. Atilius Regulus and L. Manlius Vulso, with the Carthaginian fleet. After a hard fight, the Carthaginians were defeated with the loss of 30 ships sunk and 64 captured.

256BC

In India

The mesalled "Arabic" numerals
are found on the Rock Edicts of
Ashoka (256BC), a thousand
years before their occurrence
in Arabic literature

The "Arabic" numbers and the
decimal system, came to us
through Arabs from India

256 BC

Battle of ECNOMUS.

Roman fleet won decisive
naval victory against
Carthaginian fleet off Cape
Ecnomus, near LICATA, Sicily
during 1st Punic War

256 BC

1st Punic War

The Consul REGULUS won brilliant successes there, and even laid siege to Carthage. But, as winter came on, the short-term Roman armies were mostly recalled, according to custom, and the weak remnant was soon killed or captured.

256 BC - 241 BC 1st Punic War

Rome sent an expedition to Africa to attack Carthage directly. Consul Regulus won a victory, but a Spartan heretic general arrived in Carthage - trained the Punic forces in Greek style. Romans were now badly beaten and Regulus was taken prisoner. He was sent back to Rome with peace proposals, he returned to Carthage to die a prisoner (he had given his word)

Romans now suffered unlucky accidents

Two great war fleets and many transports
were wrecked by storms and a third fleet was beaten
by the enemy. Losses totaled as many as
210,000 men. A young Carthaginian General
Hamilcar Barca went to Sicily and almost exhausted
the Romans with raids. Rome gave their personal jewelry
trunkets, etc money was raised to build a new fleet of 200
great ships. This fleet met Punic forces off Sicilian coast
and utterly defeated them. Hamilcar was marooned
and Punic subjects were about to revolt. Carthage
had to make peace (241 BC)

256BC

REGULUS

The Roman fleet defeats Carthaginians
at Ecnomus
off Sicilian coast

256BC

d. 250BC

Marcus Atilius Regulus was again Consul. During the 1st Punic War, He defeated the Carthaginian Army and navy.

But in 255BC he was defeated by Carthage. Sent as parole to Rome to negotiate, he counseled them to reject the offer. He voluntarily went back

& Carthage (He had given his word).
He died in a Carthaginian prison
in 250 BC

256th → 195 BC

Peasant warrior LIU PAN, (or LIU CHI) rebelled against the CH'IN dynasty and, after defeating the other rebels, assumed the title of emperor and established his capital at CH'ANG-AN. Liu Pan and his successors set up a central government system and a bureaucracy recruited by examination giving rise to a new gentry-official.

256 BC

Triumph. LUCIUS MANLIUS PULCHER, son of AULUS, grandson of PUBLIUS, Consul; year ~~497~~ ^{AUC}; naval victory over Carthaginians; 8 days before...

Some authorities say 256 BC = 498 AUC

256 BC

Romans invade Africa;
Carthage hard pressed